

30. (New) An electrophotographic apparatus according to claim 22,
wherein the alkali metal alkoxide is a sodium tert-butoxide.

31. (New) An electrophotographic apparatus according to claim 22,
wherein the phosphine compound has a biphenyl group which may have at least one
substituent group.

32. (New) An electrophotographic apparatus according to claim 22,
wherein the phosphine compound is di-tert-butylphenylphosphine/

REMARKS

The claims are 21-32. Claims 21 and 22 are independent and correspond to former claims 9 and 13. New claims 23-32 correspond to former claims 2-4, 8 and 9, but depend from either claim 21 or claim 22. Consideration of the claims is requested.

The Examiner objected to the specification at page 8 in use of a R^{15} group bonded to any ring position. In order to expedite prosecution, the specification has now been amended to change the bond to the meta-position.

Claims 10 and 11 (now claims 21 and 22) were rejected as anticipated by, or as obvious, over Kikuchi '809. Claims 10 and 11 were rejected as obvious over Ohkubo '526, combined with Kobayashi. Claims 10 and 11 were rejected as obvious over Ohkubo, combined with JP '261. Claims 10 and 11 were also rejected as obvious over Ohkubo, combined with Sakakibara. The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the grounds of rejection, Applicants wish to briefly review certain key features and advantages of the present claimed invention. Applicants have developed a process cartridge or electrophotographic apparatus employing the electrophotographic photosensitive member of the present invention and a contact charging means. The triphenylamines employed in the photosensitive member are each exemplified in the instant Examples. Further, the LBP-950 copier used in the instant Examples and Comparative Examples employs a contact charger. The LBP-950 copier is manufactured by the instant assignee and the Applicants are employed by the assignee and are, therefore, familiar with its products.

As compared to corona charging, contact charging readily causes an electric retrogradation of an electrophotographic photosensitive member, since the contact charging means contacts the electrophotographic photosensitive member. Contact charging is very hard on a photosensitive member and, in time the potential charge after extended use, and in particular, the dark space potential charge of the photosensitive member tends to increase. The electrophotographic photosensitive member of the present invention, however, is capable of providing good electrophotographic performance initially and after extended use.

The triarylamine compound used in Kobayashi US 6,228,547 B1 is obtained by using tri-o-tolylphosphine. Kobayashi does not disclose a triphenylamine compound which (a) is formed by using the phosphine compound represented by formula (1) of the present invention, and (b) is represented by formula (CT-1), (CT-3), (CT-5), (CT-6), (CT-8), (CT-9) or (CT-11). Further, in the Examples of Kobayashi the initial electrophotographic characteristic is evaluated by using an EPA-8200 tester which employs corona charging.

The triarylamine compound used in JP 5-78261 (JP '261) is obtained by employing triarylphosphine. JP '261 does not disclose a triphenylamine compound which (a) is formed by reaction of a phosphine compound represented by formula (1) and (b) is represented by formula (CT-1), (CT-3), (CT-5), (CT-6), (CT-8), (CT-9) or (CT-11). In the Examples of JP '261 the initial electrophotographic characteristic is evaluated by using an EPA-8200 tester, which utilizes corona charging.

US 4,920,022 (Sakakibara) also fails to teach a triphenylamine compound which (a) is formed from a phosphine compound represented by formula (1) and (b) is represented by formula (CT-1), (CT-3), (CT-5), (CT-6), (CT-8), (CT-9) or (CT-11). The triarylamine compound used in Sakakibara is obtained by an Ullman reaction explained at page 4 of the specification and thus corresponds to the structure of Comparative Examples 1-10 of the present invention. Further, in Sakakibara evaluations are made by using an NP-160Z apparatus which uses corona charging.

US 5,098,809 (Kikuchi) fails to disclose a triphenylamine compound, which (a) is formed from a phosphine compound represented by formula (1) and (b) is represented by formula (CT-1), (CT-3), (CT-5), (CT-6), (CT-8), (CT-9) or (CT-11). The triarylamine compound used in Kikuchi is obtained by an Ullman reaction using a copper catalyst, which corresponds to the structure of Comparative Examples 1-10 of the present invention. Further, in Kikuchi evaluations are made by using an NP-3525 apparatus which employs corona charging.

Thus, none of the cited references: US 6,22,547 B1, JP 5-78261, US 4,920,022 or US 5,098,809, disclose the instant triphenylamine compounds, which (a) are

formed from by using the phosphine compound represented by formula (1) and (b) are represented by formula (CT-1), (CT-3), (CT-5), (CT-6), (CT-8), (CT-9) or (CT-11). The electrophotographic photosensitive members disclosed in these citations are completely distinguishable from the electrophotographic photosensitive member used in the instant process cartridge and the electrophotographic apparatus of the present invention.

Further, US 5,430,526 (Ohkubo) merely discloses a process cartridge and an electrophotographic apparatus using contact charging (employing a charging roller).

Ohkubo, however, fails to disclose the triphenylamine compound of the present invention formed by using the phosphine compounds represented by formula (1) and which triphenylamines are represented by formula (CT-1), (CT-3), (CT-5), (CT-6), (CT-8), (CT-9) or (CT-11).

Wherefore, Applicants submit that none of the references, whether alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the present invention nor render it unpatentable.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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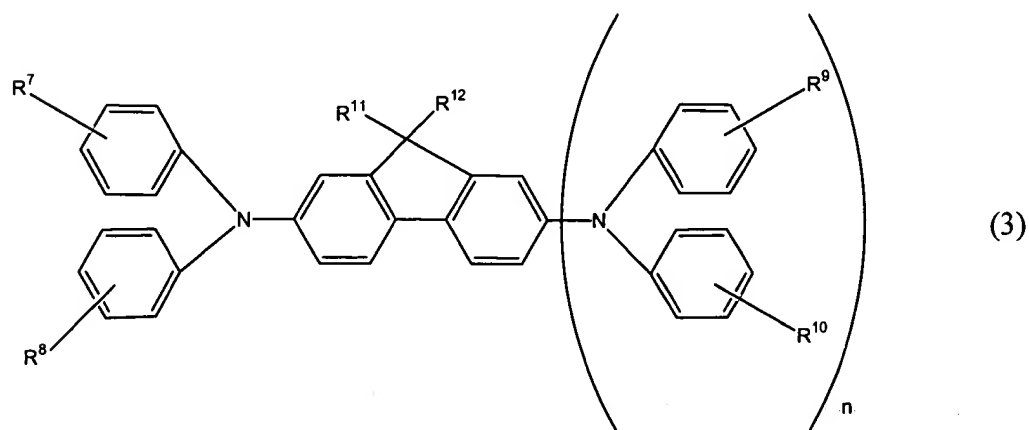
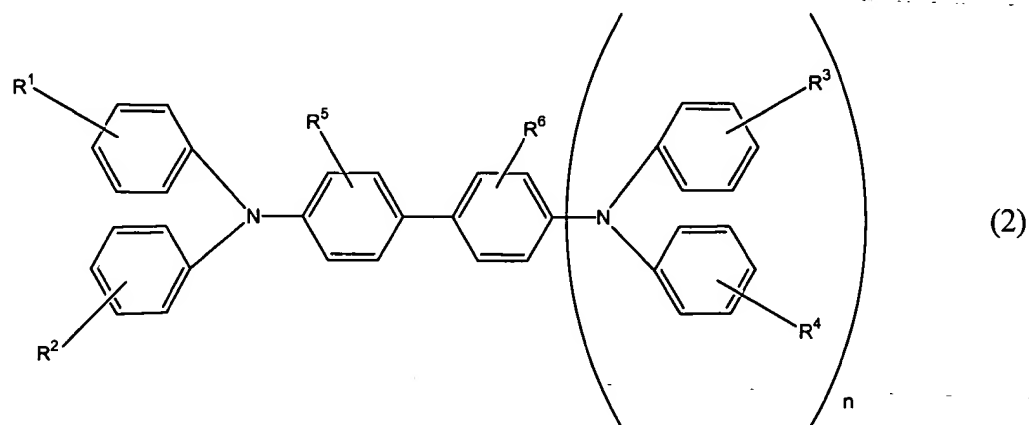
Appendix

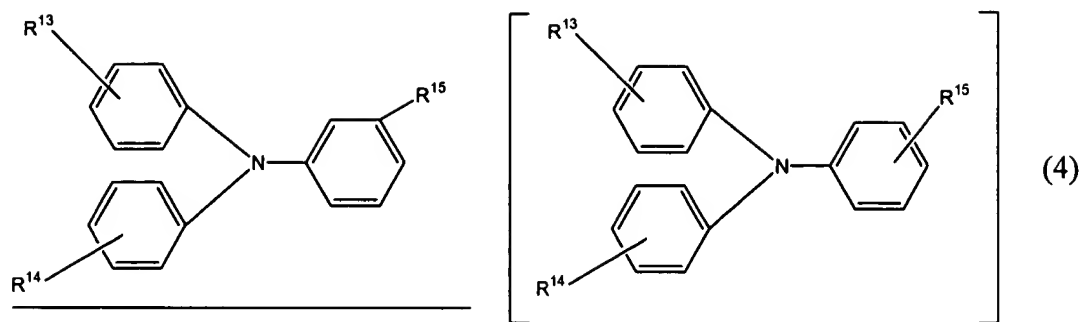
Application No. 09/832,920
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO SPECIFICATION

--Preferably, the triarylamine compound is represented by formula (2) , (3)

or (4):





wherein R^1 to R^{15} are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or alkoxy group which may have a substituent group, or a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

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